CLAIMS

5. **(Proposed Amendment)** A method for controlling congestion in a network having a plurality of switching points, comprising:

maintaining a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs) at a first switching point, each SLA having a corresponding minimum data rate;

transmitting data packets **received at the first switching point** corresponding to each SLA at or above the minimum data rate in accordance with the respective SLA;

receiving a message from a second switching point at the first switching point to indicate that traffic between a source and a destination is congested; and

adjusting a data rate at which packets corresponding to an SLA, destined for the destination, are output from the first switching point in response to receiving the message to reduce the congestion.

10. [Similar amendment as claim 5]

14. **(Proposed Amendment)** A method of controlling congestion among a plurality of switching points, comprising:

managing a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs) specifying a minimum data rate of transmission for packets corresponding to each SLA, at each switching point;

sending a message from a downstream switching point to an upstream switching point to cause the upstream switching point to reduce a data rate at which packets associated with a specific SLA **to be forwarded by the upstream switching point** are output from the upstream switching point to a device downstream from the downstream switching point; and

sending a message from the downstream switching point to the upstream switching point to cause the upstream switching point to increase the data rate at which packets associated with

the specific SLA are output from the upstream switching point to the device downstream from the downstream switching point.

16. **(Proposed Amendment)** A system comprising:

a first switching point to **receive data packets, transmit the data packets to another switching point,** manage service level agreements (SLAs) specifying a minimum data rate for packets corresponding to the SLA, and send a message to indicate that traffic between a source and a destination is congested; and

a second switching point coupled with the first switching point to manage SLAs specifying a minimum data rate for packets corresponding to the SLA, transmit packets from the second switching point in accordance with the SLA, receive the message from the first switching point, and reduce a data rate at which packets corresponding to an SLA indicated in the message, destined for the destination, are output from the second switching device in response to receiving the message.

19. **(Proposed Amendment)** A method for controlling congestion in a network having a plurality of switching points, comprising:

maintaining a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs) at a switching point, each SLA having a corresponding minimum data rate;

receiving data packets corresponding to at least one of the SLAs ;

detecting congestion for data packets corresponding to the at least one of the SLAs; and

sending a message from the switching point to indicate the congestion to an upstream switching point **that routes packets from a source** to cause the upstream switching point to adjust a data rate at which packets corresponding to the at least one of the SLAs are output from the upstream switching point in response to the message.